

THE GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

For First-Time Drivers

New Jersey residents who have never had a driver license must follow New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) program to get their first unrestricted basic driver license.

GDL is designed to give new drivers increasing instruction and driving experience, step-by-step, on the road to obtaining a full basic driver license. GDL has been proven to save lives among new drivers and their passengers. Depending on your age, and your preferences, choose one of the three roads below. All roads lead to your driver license.

The Early-Bird Road

1. Get a Special Learners Permit

You Must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Obtain the signed consent of a parent or guardian
- Enroll in an approved behind-the-wheel driver training course
- Pass the vision and written driver tests
- Pay the required fee

*Then, when you complete the driver-training course, MVC will **VALIDATE** your Special Learners Permit. With a validated permit you can:*

2. Practice Supervised Driving

You Must:

- Practice with an Adult Supervising Driver in the front passenger seat
- Observe the Student Permit Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least 6 months

Then, you can:

3. Get a Provisional Driver License

You Must:

- Be at least 17 years old
- Complete the Supervised Driving period above
- Pass the Road Test

With a Provisional License you can:

4. Practice Unsupervised Driving

You Must:

- Observe the Examination Permit Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least one year

Then, you can:

5. Get your Basic Driver License

You Must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Complete the Unsupervised Driving period above
- Pay the required fee

The Young Adult Road

1. Get an Examination Permit

You Must:

- Be at least 17 years old
- Obtain the signed consent of a parent or guardian
- Pass the vision and written driver tests
- Pay the required fee

When you complete the above requirements, MVC will give you a validated Examination Permit. With a validated permit you can:

2. Practice Supervised Driving

You Must:

- Practice with an Adult Supervising Driver in the front passenger seat
- Observe the Examination Permit Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least 6 months

Then, you can:

3. Get a Provisional Driver License

You Must:

- Complete the Supervised Driving period above
- Pass the Road Test

With a Provisional License you can:

4. Practice Unsupervised Driving

You Must:

- Observe the Examination Permit Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least one year

Then, you can:

5. Get your Basic Driver License

You Must:

- Complete the Unsupervised Driving period above
- Pay the required fee

The Adult Road

1. Get an Examination Permit

You Must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Pass the vision and written driver tests
- Pay the required fee

When you complete the above requirements, MVC will give you a validated Examination Permit. With a validated permit you can:

2. Practice Supervised Driving

You Must:

- Practice with an Adult Supervising Driver in the front passenger seat
- Observe the Adult GDL Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least 3 months

Then, you can:

3. Get a Provisional Driver License

You Must:

- Complete the Supervised Driving period above
- Pass the Road Test

With a Provisional License you can:

4. Practice Unsupervised Driving

You Must:

- Continue to observe the Adult GDL Driving Restrictions
- Practice for at least one year

Then, you can:

5. Get your Basic Driver License

You Must:

- Complete the Unsupervised Driving period above
- Pay the required fee

- An Adult Supervising Driver must have a valid NJ driver license, be at least 21 years old and be licensed to drive for at least 3 years.
- Student Permit Driving Restrictions are: No driving between 11:01 p.m. and 5 a.m., Passengers must be from the driver's household, plus one additional person, All occupants must wear safety belts, and the driver must not use a cell phone or other wireless device while on the road.
- Examination Permit Driving Restrictions are: No driving between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m., Passengers must be from the driver's household, plus one additional person (If one of the passengers is at least 21, there are no passenger restrictions), All occupants must wear safety belts, and the driver must not use a cell phone or other wireless device.
- Adult GDL Driving Restrictions are: All occupants must wear safety belts, and the driver may not use a cell phone or wireless device.